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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

25X1X6

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Interview of a Republican at [REDACTED]  
Position of the Bloque Republicano de Espana

DIST. 10 December 1946

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PAGES 5

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN  
25X1X6

Below is an account of a conversation which was held on 4 November 1946 between a leader of the coalition of Republican Parties inside Spain known as the Bloque Republicano de Espana and [REDACTED] 25X1X6

25X1X6 The interview was described to source by the Bloque leader, who belongs to the Union Republicana. The informant is apparently anti-British in attitude and believes that the British are making efforts to pave the way for the establishment of a monarchy in Spain. Attached are translations of two documents which may be of interest in that they set forth the positions of the Bloque and of the Izquierda Republicana group represented in it. The first is addressed to President Martinez Barrio and the second to Premier Giral. Both offer the support of the organizations concerned to the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile. The statement of the Izquierda is the more detailed of the two and may be said to be an amplification of the statement of the Bloque, since it is believed that the positions of the Bloque and of its components are the same. Although the declarations do not represent a change in position of the groups involved, which have always maintained that only a republican regime legally could replace the present government of Spain, it will be seen in the last paragraph of the Izquierda's statement, under the heading "The Question of the Plebiscite", that the party, and presumably the coalition, would support the holding of a plebiscite as a last resort. The account of the interview follows.

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2. In reply to a question put by Mr. [REDACTED] with regard to the possible solution of the Spanish political problem, the Union Republicana leader answered that in Spain and for the Spaniards, there was but one legal regime from the juridico-political and moral viewpoint, and that was the Republic, the fundamental charter of which is contained in the Constitution of December 1931. 25X1X6

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3. When he was asked if he did not think it advisable that a provisional regime be installed to replace that of Franco, the informant replied that he did not consider such a solution advisable, adding that the only government which should be considered as legal was the Spanish Republican Government-in-Exile. He went on to say that once republican legality had been restored in Spain and the present Republican Cortes dissolved, all Spaniards would cooperate with the President of the Republic in the constitution of a government to rule until elections could be held. The only plebiscite which could be held legally, he said, would be that provided by the elections held by a republican government.
4. In answer to a question regarding religious tolerance, the Bloque leader said that every man would be allowed to follow whatever faith he wished. All consideration would be given toward the Catholics. He added that he believed that the establishment of a democratic Catholic movement was feasible, and that he hoped that such a movement would be inspired and led by those Catholics who had not aided Franco.

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ATTACHMENT -1

Bloque Republicano  
de  
Espana

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To His Excellency the President of the Council of Ministers  
of the Spanish Republic in Exile.

Paris

Your Excellency:

The Executive Commissions of the Partias of Izquierda Republicana, Union Republicana, and Republicano Federal of the Interior, directors of the Bloque Republicano de Espana which comprises their respective Parties, have the high honor of addressing Your Excellency to tell you that on 21 October 1946 a special meeting was held for the purpose of studying the proposal presented by the National Committee of the Union Republicana of adherence to the Republic and to its present Government, at which the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

1. To ratify the bases of their program and consequently, to affirm that the democratic Republic is the only political regime capable of saving the country.
2. To declare that they recognize only the republican regime as the legal and legitimate political regime of Spain, which the people created by using their sovereignty in April 1931, reiterating their will on as many occasions as they were consulted subsequently.
3. To state that they believe that the only just solution to the so-called "Spanish problem" is the restoration of the republican regime, which was removed not by popular wish but because of the uprising of fascist military men in the service of nazism and fascism, by means of whose armed intervention they were successful in their rebellion and at whose orders they always remained with absolute servitude.
4. To reiterate their unconditional adherence, as the Bloque Republicano de Espana, to His Excellency the President of the Spanish Republic in Exile and to all the legal institutions of the Regime.
5. To make a clear and full declaration of confidence to the Republican Government-in-Exile over which Your Excellency presides, so that, sure of firm support from our Parties, united in a solid Bloque, you may continue with all authority your work for your return to our country with the Republic, liberty, democracy and well-being.

And thus we offer our support to Your Excellency, through the present document, which we sign and seal somewhere in Spain.

Firmly loyal to the Republic  
Spain, 21 October 1946  
Bloque Republicano

For the Executive Commission  
of Izquierda Republicana  
(Signed)

For the Executive Commission  
of Union Republicana  
(Signed)

For the Executive Commission  
Republicana Federal

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## ATTACHMENT -2

National Executive Commission  
of the Izquierda Republicana  
Spain

Your Excellency:

The National Executive Commission of the Izquierda Republicana has been visited by one of the delegates - the communist - sent by the Presidency to contact the political organizations and parties inside Spain, for the purpose of learning their means of opposition to the present Spanish situation, the line of conduct which they pursue and their attitude of adherence to or rejection of the Government over which Your Excellency presides.

So far as the Izquierda Republicana is concerned, our clear and previously defined position remains unchanged. And we have the honor to transmit to the Presidency, which may give satisfaction and encouragement to the Government and may serve to confirm the reports which the delegate makes available, a general report defining the attitude maintained by the Commission in the interview, as stated in the following points:

1. Permanence of the Republic. For the Izquierda Republicana, the Second Republic is not dead. It was born through the fervent desire of the people, who voted for it in the municipal elections of 1931, acclaimed it on 14 April, confirmed it in the Constituent Cortes which developed its original Statute, and defended it in the trenches for almost three years of tenacious fighting. Throughout the period of its operation, the Republic boasted of a scrupulous democratic conduct, granting such extensive liberties that even treason could plot under their protection.

This clean record of the Republic, which contrasts with the brutal blow unleashed against it, gives it the right to represent the will of the people who proclaimed it, who will not reject it in a new election, which only the Republic itself has the right to convolve.

2. Validity of its Laws and of its Fundamental Institutions. For us, therefore, the laws of the Republic are completely valid, although their application is conditioned by the limitations imposed by the tyranny inside Spain and International Law or the agreements of the States abroad.

Likewise, the men who by popular vote personified the fundamental institutions of the Republic remain as such representatives, wherever they may be, until the people can once again freely express themselves.

Thus, for the Izquierda Republicana, the Constitution of 1931 is still in force, the Cortes with its permanent delegation is still representative, and His Excellency D. Diego Martinez Barrio embodies with complete legitimacy the Presidency of the Republic.

For us to give up these antecedents and to accept as broken the connection with the past would be to renounce the rights which constitute the basis of our personality before the world and to lose the decisive argument in our dialectic fight. It would mean, moreover, accepting as victorious the rebellion of 18 July 1936, which was furthered through the aid of the fascist conspiracy, and it would mean viewing with equal political regard the act of will of a people in proclaiming the Republic and the military uprising in overthrowing it.

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3. Concrete Objectives. As a consequence of the previous statements, the concrete and immediate objective, in the opinion of the Izquierda Republicana, must be purely and simply the restoration of the Republic in Spain.

4. Program and Organs of Action. The restoration of the Republic must be the fruit of concerted action abroad and inside Spain. Neither is sufficient alone.

The specific organ of activity abroad can be only a Republican Government: at the present time the Giral Government. That of activity inside Spain must be a body representative of all the antifascist organizations which profess or have professed Republican faith.

a) The Giral Government. We respect and give our adherence to the Government over which Dr. Giral presides, not for personal or party reasons, but because it is the constitutional Government formed at the request of the President of the Republic and through previous discussions with the parties who are represented in it. This adherence and respect does not mean unconditional, absolute and passive submission. On the contrary, we understand that the parties have the right to contribute projects and offer opinions with all the authority which is granted to such organizations under democratic regimes.

b) The Organ for Activity in the Interior. Its specific mission must be twofold: to unify action, in order to make it rapid and efficient, through unity of direction; and to take exclusive charge of the relations between the interior movement and the Government so that the transmittal to the latter of tendentious information or biased suggestions may be avoided.

The Izquierda Republicana is always in favor of collaborating with all forces which accept the Republic and which wish to unite their action to ours toward concrete objectives which have as their aim the restoration of the republican regime. But we demand, as we offer, unselfishness and loyalty. We will not tolerate ulterior party motives and efforts to dominate the Government, because the immediate end is not to determine the line for the Republic to follow, but to restore it as a common denominator, as the only type of regime under which those of us who want to be free can live.

5. The Question of the Plebiscite. We are and always have been ready to cooperate with all true antifascist elements; we reject collaboration with the monarchists, traditionalists and the other elements directly responsible for the uprising against the Republic and for the barbarous repression which we have suffered.

We refuse to collaborate in a plebiscite which would place the restoration of the Republic in doubt and which would be held without guarantees. Those who consider the question of the type of Government of secondary importance may be willing to accept a plebiscite, but the true republicans are not.

However, if international hostility or indifference should leave us totally abandoned; if the discouragement of the people should grow because of the indefinite prolongation of the "Spanish case", if our need for relief in our wretchedness demands this bitter renunciation, we believe that in no case should we agree to this step of compromise unless the Government agrees to it and unless we and the Government are convinced that there is no other means of solving the problem.

Approved

Vice President  
N. L.

Treasurer  
J. D. R.

For the National Executive  
Commission  
12 October 1946